REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejected Claims 16-17 has been cancelled. The remaining claims have been allowed.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowability.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 03/06) Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Robert T. Pous Attorney of Record Registration No. 29,099